

# Crop Weather



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For week ending 6/1/08

## Crops Ready for Rain

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending June 1, 2008, there were 6.0 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 4% poor, 19% fair, 71% good, and 6% excellent. Monday and Tuesday started the week off with cloudy skies, wind, and rain. Both high and low temperatures were average to above average. High temperatures ranged in the mid-60s to mid-70s, with several locations even venturing into the 80s. Low temperatures were in the upper-40s to low-50s. Partly cloudy skies mid-week kept temperatures in the 60s to 70s. Rain fell again on Saturday, bringing thunderstorms and below average temperatures. Some areas received far more rain than others, providing much needed moisture. However, other areas remain very dry and growers are reporting irrigation is necessary to promote seed germination. Also, several locations in Massachusetts reported hail during the storms, but damage was very light. The week ended with mostly average temperatures in the upper-70s and some sun poking through the clouds. Rainfall for the week ranged from 0.20 to 2.18 inches. Major farm activities included spreading manure, mending fences, renovating cranberry fields, monitoring pollination activities, planting vegetables and field crops, mowing orchard floors, and cutting hay.

**FRUIT:** All fruits, except cranberries, were in full bloom to petal fall across the region. Fruit set was observed in all crops and was reported as average. The lack of significant rain over the week provided excellent pollinating conditions. Orchard activities included monitoring for pests, spraying for weeds and pests, and mowing orchard floors. The strawberry crop was reported in good to excellent condition and has developed slightly ahead of schedule this year. Cranberries were still in bud stage to early bloom due to the cooler, drier weather this season. Growers were busy renovating beds, monitoring for cranberry weevil and caterpillars, and implementing weed control practices. Both highbush and wild blueberries were reported in good to excellent condition despite the outbreak of flea beetles.

**VEGETABLES:** Farmers' markets were busy this past weekend selling rhubarb, asparagus, spinach, and vegetable plants for transplanting. Sweet corn planting and emergence was on par with last year and normal by week's end. Vegetable growers were busy planting tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cabbage, beans, and summer squash. Some farmers in Maine began planting pumpkins and winter squash. Many growers reported warmer weather and more rain were needed to spur seed germination and plant growth.

**FIELD CROPS:** The dry weather over the past week allowed shade tobacco transplanting to progress ahead of last year and normal, with 100 percent transplanted in Connecticut and 90 percent in Massachusetts. Broadleaf transplanting started in earnest and was 20% transplanted by week's end. Both crops were reported in good condition. Oat and barley plantings in Maine neared completion and both were 25 percent emerged by Sunday. The dry conditions allowed Maine potato farmers to make excellent progress during the week, with 85 percent planted at the end of the week, slightly ahead of last year and normal. Field corn planting continued ahead of last year and normal. Growers were busy scouting for insects and spraying for weeds. The first cutting of hay also progressed past last year and normal this past week. The crop was reported in varying conditions due to sporadic rainfall and cooler temperatures. Although the weather provided a good environment for drying, yields and quality have suffered.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	3	3	1
Short	23	28	7
Adequate	73	67	83
Surplus	1	2	9
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	3	2	0
Short	22	24	4
Adequate	75	72	89
Surplus	0	2	7

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Set	Condition
Apples	PF	Average	Good
Peaches	PF	Average	Good/Fair
Pears	PF	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	FB/PF	Average	Good
Wild	FB/PF	Average	Excellent
Cranberries, MA	BS/EB		Good
Strawberries	FB/PF	Average	Good/Excellent

BS = Bud Stage, EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom, PF = Petal Fall

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	95	85	85	
Oats, ME	90	85	85	
Potatoes				
Maine	85	80	80	Good
Mass	99	100	95	
Rhode Island	95	95	100	
Silage Corn	80	75	70	
Sweet Corn	65	70	60	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	20	40	20	Good/Fair
Shade	99	95	85	Good
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	25	30	45	Good
Oats, ME	25	40	45	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	0	0	5	
Mass	55	55	50	Good
Rhode Island	65	95	65	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	30	35	35	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	40	40	35	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	20	15	10	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics  
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday May 26, 2008  
To: Sunday June 1, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES		
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	41	84	60	+1	233	+33	22	+0	0.52	-0.32	3	0.93	-2.48	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	37	82	59	+1	189	+32	13	+1	0.59	-0.20	2	2.21	-1.04	10
Bethel	36	79	56	-3	132	-37	5	-11	0.40	-0.47	3	0.95	-2.39	9
Caribou_Municip	36	71	54	-3	79	-39	2	-7	0.79	+0.09	3	2.71	-0.09	10
Dover-Foxcroft	34	78	54	-2	108	-13	0	-8	1.01	+0.17	3	1.98	-1.28	11
Frenchville	35	69	52	-4	59	-32	2	+2	0.89	+0.19	5	2.29	-0.54	11
Houlton	28	72	54	-3	77	-43	0	-10	0.73	-0.04	3	2.15	-0.91	12
Livermore_Falls	34	83	57	+1	154	+32	10	+2	0.63	-0.28	2	1.32	-2.11	8
Moosehead	31	72	52	-3	35	-39	0	+0	0.80	-0.04	3	1.66	-1.49	12
Portland_ME	40	85	61	+4	206	+61	24	+18	0.38	-0.39	2	0.83	-2.37	6
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	32	75	56	-2	148	-41	6	-17	0.37	-0.47	2	1.08	-2.08	10
Berlin_AG	36	76	56	-2	157	-10	8	-11	1.20	+0.31	3	1.55	-1.73	9
Concord	33	87	62	+3	261	+40	46	+15	0.13	-0.61	1	0.30	-2.54	7
Diamond_Pond	30	72	52	-2	68	-8	0	+0	1.14	+0.15	3	2.56	-1.10	12
Keene_AP	34	84	62	+3	231	+35	39	+14	0.20	-0.64	1	0.53	-2.97	5
North_Conway	40	83	58	-1	191	-3	9	-16	0.39	-0.52	3	0.81	-2.82	10
RocheSter	37	85	63	+3	259	+5	42	+0	0.41	-0.43	2	0.91	-2.56	6
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_Intl	40	77	61	+0	311	+43	53	+2	0.60	-0.16	3	1.62	-1.24	10
Island_Pond	32	69	53	-3	108	-13	0	-11	1.49	+0.55	3	2.65	-0.79	9
Montpelier	34	74	58	+0	198	+14	21	-1	1.15	+0.34	3	1.87	-1.15	13
Pownal	36	80	61	+3	238	+43	25	-2	0.47	-0.58	3	1.71	-2.43	14
Rochester	32	78	56	-2	139	-29	1	-18	0.68	-0.28	2	1.60	-2.30	10
Rutland_AG	33	80	58	-4	203	-104	28	-39	0.32	-0.50	2	1.00	-2.19	7
Springfield_VT	33	84	61	+3	248	+42	39	+9	0.18	-0.78	1	0.35	-3.35	5
Sutton	34	73	54	-2	112	-7	3	-8	1.49	+0.57	3	2.58	-0.78	11
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	51	83	66	+4	351	+28	82	+37	1.01	+0.30	2	2.48	-0.42	9
Fitchburg	43	88	65	+7	350	+169	77	+59	0.54	-0.28	2	1.59	-1.61	9
Greenfield	39	82	61	-2	285	-41	32	-27	0.22	-0.69	2	1.17	-2.36	12
New_Bedford	38	75	61	-3	224	-98	31	-13	0.06	-0.78	2	2.49	-0.83	10
Otis_AFB	45	72	59	+0	164	-26	9	-6	0.14	-0.65	3	3.14	-0.17	13
Plymouth	39	77	62	+2	234	+24	36	+16	0.04	-0.80	2	2.24	-1.28	11
Walpole	41	81	64	+4	295	+39	52	+17	0.29	-0.50	3	1.74	-1.37	12
Chicopee/Westov	35	84	63	-2	317	-99	58	-33	0.34	-0.64	2	1.80	-1.94	11
Worthington	35	82	59	+1	190	+0	12	-11	0.34	-0.64	1	2.01	-2.12	12
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	46	78	65	+4	384	+97	74	+36	0.03	-0.78	3	1.52	-1.83	10
Woonsocket	42	81	63	+3	293	+41	46	+18	0.13	-0.78	2	1.65	-2.00	9
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	47	78	65	+3	384	+46	75	+9	0.19	-0.65	3	2.17	-1.35	11
Hartford/Bradle	44	86	66	+3	412	+26	95	+11	1.09	+0.18	2	2.44	-1.29	11
Norfolk	39	80	61	+3	213	+27	25	+5	1.07	+0.02	2	2.94	-1.20	11
Thomaston_Dam	39	81	63	+2	296	+24	38	-5	0.96	-0.02	3	2.39	-1.60	12
Willimantic	39	80	63	+3	348	+75	57	+15	0.50	-0.41	3	1.80	-1.96	12

Summary based on NWS data.  
DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 1, 2008

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	28	86	56	-1	0.11	1.34
NH	16	87	58	+0	0.00	2.38
VT	26	85	57	-1	0.00	2.17
MA	35	88	62	+2	0.03	1.13
RI	42	81	63	+3	0.03	0.13
CT	35	86	63	+2	0.14	1.19

**REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County:** *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency(FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

**CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A front moved through Tuesday afternoon with thunderstorms and locally heavy rain. Wednesday cleared nicely and cooler air in mornings, but nice and sunny days through Friday. Some dairy farmers were finishing up planting corn and chopping grass at the same time. Setting tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and cabbage. Sweet corn is looking better every day and is waist high in earlier row covered fields. A little more dry hay baled and some green straw made before plowing down. Shade tobacco is all planted and more acres of broadleaf were planted. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers reporting very good to excellent first cutting of hay. Corn planting on schedule, although some fields usually planted by now are too wet to complete. Vegetables need more warm weather. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Good fruit set on blueberries. Scattered showers with mostly dry conditions. Some nitrogen deficiencies in crops apparent. Haying, corn planting, vegetable planting and still spreading manure in places. Fly problems affecting farm public relations. Checking frost loss of peaches, pears and apples after the June drop. A busy time of year. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This was a very nice warm week for the most part. Severe thunderstorms late in the weekend brought some heavy rains and windy conditions to the area. There have not been any reports of hail or other damages to crops up to this point. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Harvesting haylage and planting corn. Beginning to scout corn for insects and weed escapes.

**MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Aroostook:** Farmers still finishing planting of all crops. Some oats and barely emerged. Hopefully, all crops will be planted after this week. Early planted oats and barley have begun to emerge in Central Aroostook. **Steve London, Aroostook:** We have had some rain this past weekend that should get the crops off to a good start. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Some rain was received on Saturday 1/2" or less overall. This will help germination at least. Before the rain it was so dry farmers were irrigating to get seeds to germinate. More rain is desperately needed. First crop hay looks light. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** Finally got a good amount of rain, up to an inch in the county. First cut of hay is well under way. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Farmers continue to have good weather to plant and manage their crops. Pumpkins and winter squash were planted this past week. Farm stands are now open offering a variety of greens to their customers. Sweet corn is visible in many fields. Bees will be taken off the blueberry fields in another week and fruit set has occurred in some fields. Under an inch of rain fell on Saturday in this area. Crop fields are being cultivated and sulfur continues to be applied on non-cropping blueberry fields. The first cut of grass is just starting. Crops are looking good and Mother Nature continues to cooperate. Showers are forecasted for Wednesday in this area with hot, humid air to follow which will help the corn crop. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Field work still ongoing....full speed ahead to get all the crops in the ground. Some areas did receive a little moisture but in need of a soaking rain throughout the county. Animals are grazing pastures. Fence repair still underway and spreading of manure/fertilizer. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** Been a busy week !!!! Potatoes, silage, sweet corn, and all small vegetables are getting planted. Needed Saturday's rain badly. Haylage getting cut. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Great week to get most of the planting done. Some corn has started to emerge. A few fields have been cut for haylage. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Warm weather and a soaking rain have helped conditions. Some hay being cut. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Lots of dry warm weather pushed crop progress. Corn is up in many fields and strawberries are blooming. Apples had good weather for pollination. Dry weather was helped by inch of rain on 5/31. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Bees continuing to pollinate blueberries, mid-coast fields have finished bloom but down-east fields still have blossoms. The cool weather has extended the bloom. Rain and showers have delivered badly needed moisture. Flea beetle outbreaks seen on many fields.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Conditions most of this week were arid. Windy and dry until Saturday when storms hit the county. Some hail reported. Some haylage was made. Producers report real bad quality 1st baled cutting due to cool temps even though drying conditions were superb. Strawberries in full bloom. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was very dry and warm with an inch plus of rain on Saturday. Growers were irrigating all week long. All types of crops are being planted such as cucumbers, squashes, beets, cabbage, tomatoes, and radishes. Shade and broadleaf tobacco are also being planted and the crop looks good. No problems reported so far on insects or diseases. **Janice Barnes, Franklin:** Weather great throughout the week, finally got much needed rain on Saturday. Some field corn in the area beginning to emerge. Bumble bees are continuing to work the blueberry blossoms, it looks to have a very good crop potential. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: We missed all of the rain over the weekend, so things are getting a little dry. The beds are actually not in a dry condition because they have received so much water on frost nights. Some hook is beginning to show on the inland beds. Vines look good for the most part. Cranberry weevil has reached high numbers in some beds, caterpillars are widespread. Weeds are growing like crazy and requiring treatments. Renovation projects are requiring a lot of grower's attention this spring.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Field prep work and transplanting continues as chance of frost is past. We are still in need of rain despite small showers on Saturday. Garden center sales have been good because of nice weekend weather. Many fields are ready for first cutting. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Dry, dry, dry! Scattered showers on Saturday, not enough to make a real difference. Pastures and hay fields are dry and not growing well. Lawns are so dry that the weeds are wilted. Garden centers doing well, everybody wants a garden this year. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** No rain all week and things are very dry out there. Most field corn is emerged, some at 2-3 leaf stage, doing OK despite lack of moisture. First cutting has begun for haylage, baylage, and dry hay, though yields are low. Planting continues on vegetable operations, places with irrigation are awfully glad they have it. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Another good week for field work ending with a deep soaking rain of one to two inches, depending on location. Most field corn now in about right timing although much earlier than last two years. Meadows growing well, this rain should help a lot. Orchard and Kentucky grass starting to head out and alfalfa is at pre-bud stage. Generally progressing OK on the horticultural crops, rain will benefit transplant and need seedings. Lessened irrigation concerns. A couple of frosts this week, no damage reports of concern reported. Some concern with orchardists on lack of pollinating honeybees and windy weather during bloom. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 31st, we had two days with very light showers. Total rain fall for the week was just over three tenths of an inch. Top soil conditions remain dry as a general rule. Most of the corn is planted with the exception of a few more difficult fields. Grass is growing slower than normal. Pasture conditions in the upland areas remain below normal for this time of year. Pastures which were initially suppressed by cool wet conditions are now feeling the effect of unusually dry conditions. We received 0.28 inches of rain on Saturday, which helped a little. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Transplanting tomato and pepper plants in field and making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, asparagus and rhubarb. Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Orchardists wondering if they should be applying thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Blueberries were at bloom to petal fall during the week. Strawberries were blooming. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers starting to make haylage. Very dry soil condition where many growers are starting to irrigate to keep alive or to germinate planted crops. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Long periods of dry weather. There was less than an inch of rain at the end of the week which did not provide enough

of much needed relieve from dry weather. Grass in pastures and hayfields is growing well despite the dry weather because of moderate temperatures. Hay producers were making first cut for hay and haylage. Fruit crops are doing well and growers were irrigating as needed. Vegetable growers were busy planting different crops. Greenhouses and garden centers have been very busy with customers buying different kinds of plant material as a result of favorable weather for planting and landscaping. Growers in greenhouses and garden centers were also preparing themselves for planting fall mums by mid June.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Haying and some green chop was the work of the week. Lots of great weather for haying and a good crop. Getting ready for field corn and planting field and sweet corn. Strawberry plants look great and seem a little ahead of schedule. Lots of planting being done, sweet corn, beans, summer squash, peppers, tomatoes etc. Some rain showers late week helped.

**VERMONT – Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Nice weather allowed for first harvest of haylage on a lot of fields. Rain Saturday and Sunday stopped field work. Most corn planted, a few wet fields not finished yet. Corn emergence looks very good, most fields sprayed close behind planter. Hay crop very short only 50 to 60% of normal. Grasses headed out, so time to cut. Pasture looks slow to grow. Soil conditions very dry. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Cool dry week, until heavy showers and some rain on Saturday. Scattered light frost on Thursday and Friday mornings. A good week for that first cut of hay, windy and dry, but the yield is light. Wind on Friday was really kicking up dust. Saturday's rain was welcome. **Paul Stanley, Franklin:** First cut haylage harvest is getting into full swing.

Varied reports on yields. Dryer type soils are not doing as well with heavier soils doing much better. Moisture is a big factor in grass yields this spring. Corn is pretty well planted and most of the emerged corn was at a stand still due to the cool weather and slightly dry surface conditions. Four inches of rain in the rain gauge in Bakersfield for Saturday all day and into the night. Streams do not seem to be over bank full so hopefully a lot of the moisture is in the soil. If we get another blast it may look different. Herbicides may have taken a hit from the heavy rain. The jury is still out on that one.

**John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Picked up some much needed rain over the weekend. Corn planting is winding down as the crop is off to a good start. Those that have started the first cut of grass are reporting reduced yields because of the dry spring. Veggie growers were nervous last week as we had several mornings with a chance of frost in the colder pockets. No one was affected in this area.

**Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The beginning of the week was continued dry however we received a lot of rain that past few days. This should help the new emerging corn. First cut haying is in full swing now. The crop looks good but is not real heavy. Pastures are in good shape and the rain should give them a good boost. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Dry weather and cool temps continue. Needed rain scheduled for the weekend. Fruit sets seem good. Lettuces and greens growing well. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** All land plowed and ready to plant. Fertilizing as crops are planted. Early hay beginning to be cut, light crop with short moisture. Rain for the week 0.398. Seed germination good so far. But growth on all crops slow because of cool weather and short on rain. Potatoes and peas all planted, also carrots, lettuce, radishes and other early vegetable crops. Average cut of asparagus but that needs sun and rain. So hope for showers and rain. Have a good week!

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